

# Superior Court of California, County of Ventura

## Self-Help Legal Access Center

### List of Resources for Legal Research

If you have access to a law library, the following resources may be helpful in drafting papers to be filed with the court, called **pleadings**, and in understanding the civil court process:

**SUBSTANTIVE LAW** - to learn about the actual laws themselves, and different legal theories upon which a civil lawsuit may be based, the following books are helpful:

- WITKIN, *Summary of California Law*, published by Bancroft-Whitney.
- Books published by Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB) on different legal subjects.
- *California Practice Guides*, published by The Rutter Group on different legal subjects.
- MILLER & STARR, *California Real Estate*, 2d, published by Bancroft-Whitney, for information about real estate laws.

**PROCEDURAL LAW** - to learn about the procedure for filing, prosecuting or defending a civil case in court, the following books are helpful:

- WITKIN, *California Procedure*, published by Bancroft-Whitney. The two volumes on “Pleadings” explain the elements of different **causes of action** of a complaint. Each **cause of action** states a separate legal theory upon which the plaintiff’s claims are based.
- WEIL & BROWN, *Civil Procedure Before Trial*, a California Practice Guide published by The Rutter Group.

**SAMPLE FORMS** - to see sample language to be used in drafting pleadings, MATTHEW BENDER, *Forms of Pleading and Practice*, may be helpful.